

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Minister President Otto Grotewohl's illness is genuine, and there is no truth in the many rumors to the contrary. However, it is true that he recently incurred the extreme displeasure of the Russians because on his own initiative he sent a note to the Polish government inquiring about the status of German prisoners of war in Poland. He took this action without clearing either with Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger or with the Russians. The Poles replied promptly, but Grotewohl was reprimanded.
2. Dertinger is also in bad health, and drinks excessively even during the day. His acquaintances ascribe the excessive drinking to a general feeling of insecurity and doubts as to the correctness of his decision to cast in his lot with the East. He is said to believe that if a purge comes he will not be with Grotewohl among the first to go, but he is almost sure that he will be in the second batch. Recently he stated that the Russians pay little attention to him because he is not a Socialist; on the other hand, they are really worried about Grotewohl, who is showing more and more Titoist tendencies, as for example in the matter of the prisoners of war in Poland.
3. Dertinger's principal Russian contacts are with Ambassador Pushkin. His party colleague Otto Muechke, on the other hand, talks with Ambassador V. S. Semeonov, but does not compare notes with Dertinger on what the Russians have said.
4. In personnel matters in his ministry, Dertinger gives preference to old-line Communists, in order to avoid wrangling. He takes no strong stand for views acceptable to the CDU.
5. Muechke is described as showing his age. He often appears to have fallen asleep at cabinet meetings, although afterwards he seems to remember everything that has been said.\*
6. It is reported that Semeonov is considering the possibility of initiating talks with officials of the West German government, with a view to exploring ways and means for an East-West rapprochement. The persons regarded as most suitable for such contacts are Josef Müller (CSU) and the Deputy Minister President of Lower Saxony, Günter Gereke (CDU). These two men are reputed to be willing to act as go-betweens, but only if assured that a reasonable justification for discussion will be provided by some concession on the part of the Russians, such as the immediate return of certain categories of prisoners, or territorial adjustments. Rumor has it that the Russians are now considering the advisability of such a concession.

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-2-

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7. Dertinger believes that the Soviet government will never agree to any Austrian peace treaty before the question of Germany is solved on a quadripartite basis.

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